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1988

# Identifying siganid fry

Aquaculture Department, Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center

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Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center, Aquaculture Department (1988). Identifying siganid fry. Aqua Farm News, 6(2), 4-5.

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<http://hdl.handle.net/10862/2687>

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## IDENTIFYING SIGANID FRY

Siganid fry (Fig. 1) collected from coastal waters are of a wide size range. The padas in Pangasinan are 10-35 mm in length, mostly 20-30 mm, while those of the Visayas are 10-40 mm and estimated to be 1-3 months old. Sigamid fry collected in Pandan, Panay Island in 1976-1977 with a two-man dragged seine were 10-40 mm in total length. Siganid vermiculatus fry in Israel measure 36-46 mm in the Red Sea and 45-95 mm in the Mediterranean. At the SEAFDEC Aquaculture Department hatchery, S. guttatus fry are defined as early juveniles 20-30 mm in total length and 35-45 days old.

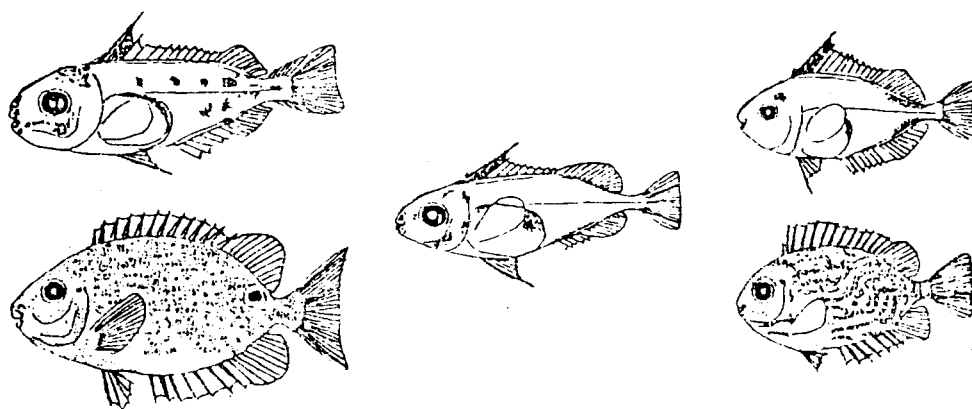


Fig. 1. Sigamid fry of different species and stages.  
Scales represent 2 mm.

Younger sigamid fry up to about 10mm long are pale and transparent, with few pigments on the body. The front part of the head has a series of short spines. The gut is visible through the body wall. Older fry are darker in pigmentation, have silvery abdomens, relatively short, deep bodies, a high number of fin spines, and oftentimes exhibit the color pattern of the adult (Fig. 1).

Siganid fry, being deep-bodied and laterally compressed, may be confused with the larvae and juveniles of surgeonfish (Acanthurus spp.), filefish Monacanthidae), snappers (Lutjanus spp.), and the slipmouths (Leiognathidae) (Fig. 2). Sigamid fry may be distinguished by the high number of still fin spines and by the blunt, rabbitlike snout. Surgeonfish juveniles occasionally found in shore waters often have the adult color pattern already, and the scalpel-like spine near the tail. Younger ones have elongate first dorsal and second anal spines. File-fish juveniles have erect first dorsal spine and sandpaper-like skin. Snapper larvae have elongate second dorsal and pelvic spines and a large mouth with canine-like teeth. Slipmouth juveniles in shore waters are silvery bodied, with highly protrusible mouths.

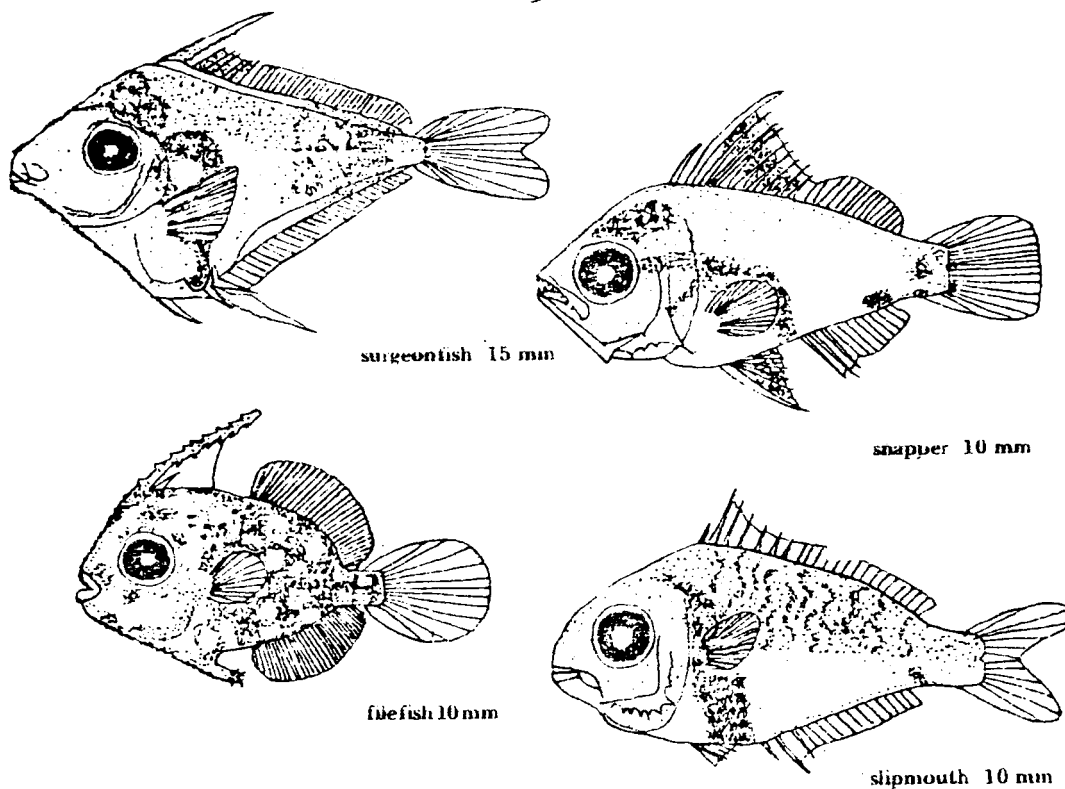


Fig. 2. Fry of other fish species that may be confused with siganid fry.

Source: Same as AFN-VI-2-1

AFN-VI-2-2

### IDENTIFYING SEA BASS FRY

Sea bass fry (Fig. 1) are likewise of a wider size range as siganid fry. Wild fry may be as small as 5 mm and as large as 10-20 cm. The sea bass fry collected in milkfish fry gear in Iloilo are 5-8 mm in total length, probably 2-3 weeks old from hatching. In Thailand, where sea bass is cultured in floating cages and 1 kg. fish are harvested for the market, juveniles 10-20 cm long are used for stocking. Wild sea bass fry and juveniles are not abundant and most of the present supply comes from hatcheries. Hatcheries in Thailand and at SEAFDEC AQD produce sea bass fry that are 1-2 cm long between 1 to 2 months of age.

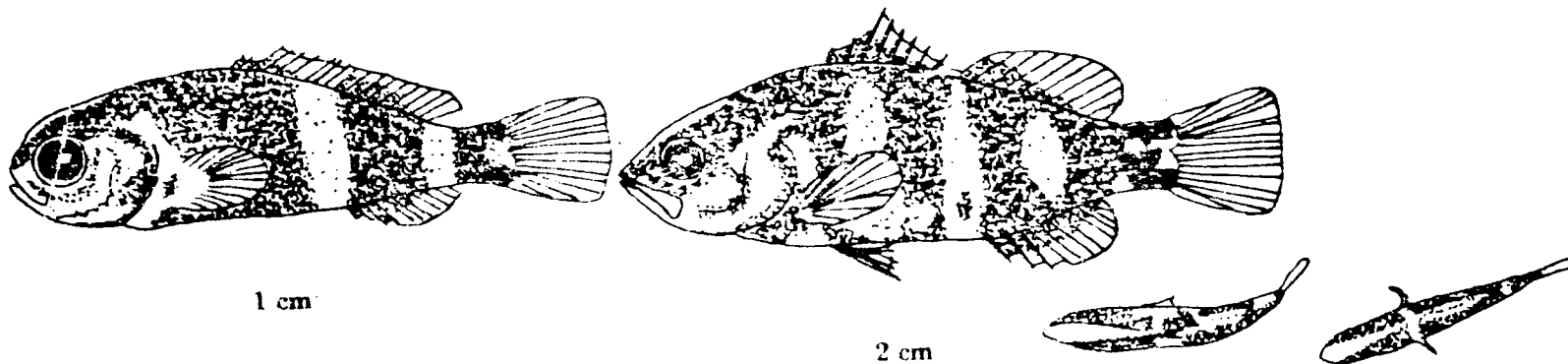


Fig. 1. Sea bass fry of different stages, showing dorsal head stripe.

dorsal view